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START WATER-RETENTION PROJECT ON HUAI HO -- Hankow, Ch'ang-chiang Jih-pao,
29 Dec 50

Work has already started on one of the Huai Ho flood-water-retention basins which is to be located at T'ung Hu (1) [numbers in parentheses refer to appended characters] in Hsi (2) Hsien, Honan.

COMPLETE DIKE REPAIRS ON YELLOW RIVER -- Peiping, Jen-min Jih-pao, 25 Dec 50

Winter work on repairs to the dikes of the Yellow River in Hopeh, P'ing-yuan, and Shantung provinces is completed.

PLAN CONSTRUCTION OF NEW CHANNEL FOR SHU HO -- Peiping, Jen-min Jih-pao, 25 Dec 50

The Shu Ho (3), which rises in central Shantung and flows southward into North Kiangsu, past the city of Shu-yang, and thence seaward, is one of the contributory causes of the Huai Ho problem. It flows through ten hsien, and in seasons of bad flood conditions it may inundate some 10 million mou of agricultural land. The Shu Ho is now to have a new channel of its own to the sea at or near Lin-hung-k'ou(4), which will lie entirely within the territory of Shantung. It will be nearly 100 kilometers shorter than its present course. Making the new channel involves cutting through a range of hills, necessitating a large amount of stone work. About 200,000 men are now engaged in this work, spurred on by competition between gangs from different neighborhoods and by promised rewards.

SHANTUNG PEOPLE'S GOVERNMENT FACES FLOOD PROBLEM -- Tsinan, Ta-chung Jih-pao,
5 Dec 50

Tsinan -- The directive of the Shantung People's government concerning water conservancy work during the winter of 1950-51 contains the following information:

As a result of many years of culpable neglect on the part of the reactionary KMT government, measures for the conservation of water and soil in the hilly regions are practically nonexistent, hilly ground has little power to absorb and retain the rainfall, top soil is eroded, and river channels are silted up, thus reducing their capacity to handle the flow during the flood seasons; hence, there are frequent overflows and breaches of the dikes, with the inundation of low-lying land which prevents cultivation, reduces agricultural production, and results in famine conditions.

In 1949 in Shantung Province alone, the inundated areas amounted to 12,480,000 mou [6 mou equal one acre], or more than 11 percent of the tilled land; agricultural production was reduced by 1,400,000,000 catties. Some 9,510,000 persons were serious sufferers from flood conditions, while many others suffered in less degree; while the total economic losses were tremendous. All these facts show that floods are a problem which must be recognized and dealt with as one of the major responsibilities of all levels of the government.

REPAIR DIKES IN HOPEI -- Shanghai, Novaya Zhizn, 11 Dec 50

About 10,000 peasants in eastern Hopei are repairing dikes along the Ch'ing-lung Ho and its three main tributaries, for a distance of 180 kilometers. They are competing with 50,000 peasants working on the Ch'ao-pai Ho and several thousand peasants working on the Yung-ting river further west, to complete their work before the rivers are covered with ice about mid-December.

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On the basis of the work already completed, the dikes are expected to be fortified enough to withstand the river's highest flood level.

COMPLETE IRRIGATION PROJECT IN CHAHAR -- Shanghai, Novaya Zhizn, 21 Dec 50

The peasants and soldiers of the People's Liberation Army in Chahar recently completed a large irrigation project in the region of the Sang-kan Ho (5). The work consisted in utilizing the Sang-kan Ho to fertilize the alkaline soil of the regions of the Shan-yin Hsien (6) and Ying-Hsien (7), south of the river.

As a result of this work, the yearly harvest on the 10,000 irrigated hectares of the region is expected to be two or three times greater than previous yields. By 1953, 40,000 hectares are expected to be improved greatly.

FORTIFY DIKES AROUND TUNG-T'ING HU -- Shanghai, Novaya Zhizn, 13 Dec 50

Tens of thousands of peasants in Hunan along the Yangtze are fortifying about 4,000 kilometers of dikes around the Tung-t'ing Hu.

This lake is the most important natural reservoir of the Yangtze in this rich agricultural region. The peasants were able to reap an abundant harvest last year, as a result of the repair work done on the dikes in this region. The present work of fortifying the dikes is intended to protect over 400,000 hectares of this fertile land. The project is expected to be completed by May 1951, before the flood season starts in this region.

The Tung-t'ing Hu is important in the preservation of millions of hectares of land in the middle and lower courses of the Yangtze. Four rivers flow into the lake, and it also receives more than half of the flow of the Yangtze during the summer, when high river levels are recorded.

The region around the lake is one of the most fertile in the country. There, more productive yields per hectare are obtained than in any other region. However, due to past negligence, this region had become a periodically unproductive inundated area. This was especially true during 1948 and 1949, when 2 million inhabitants were victimized.

As a result of repair work done during 1950, more than 98 percent of the arable land in this area has been protected from flooding.

CHARACTERS

1. 潼 湖
2. 息 縣
3. 泌 河
4. 臨 洪 口
5. 桑 乾 河
6. 山 陰 縣
7. 應 縣

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